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Agenda item 97 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Report of the Third Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Vitavas SRIVIHOK (Thailand)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled:

"Human rights questions:

"(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 35th and 41st meetings, on 11 and 16 November 1992. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/47/SR.35 and 41).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documentation:

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* The report of the Committee on item 97 will be issued in three parts (see also A/47/678/Add.1 and 2).

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the request to the United Nations to observe the referendum process in Eritrea (A/47/544);

(b) Letter dated 29 October 1992 from the Chairman of the Third Committee to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/47/5).

4. At the 35th meeting, on 11 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs made a statement (see A/C.3/47/SR.35).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.20/Rev.1

5. At the 41st meeting, on 16 November 1992, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/47/L.20/Rev.1) entitled "Report of the Secretary-General concerning a request to the United Nations to observe the referendum process in Eritrea".

6. The Committee had before it a statement (A/C.3/47/L.25) submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.3/47/L.20/Rev.1).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Secretary-General concerning a request to the United Nations to observe the referendum process in Eritrea

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning a request to the United Nations to observe the referendum process in Eritrea, 1/

Recalling that the authorities directly concerned have registered their commitment to respect the results of the referendum in Eritrea, 2/

1/ A/47/544.

2/ See A/C.3/47/5.

Taking into account that the authorities directly concerned have requested the involvement of the United Nations to verify the referendum in Eritrea, 2/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 1/ and of the recommendations contained therein for the establishment of a United Nations observer mission to verify the referendum scheduled to take place in Eritrea in April 1993;

2. Decides to authorize the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea, which will have terms of reference as provided for in paragraph 7 of the report of the Secretary-General, and to appoint, as a matter of urgency, a Special Representative for the referendum in Eritrea, who will head the Observer Mission;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to arrange, as soon as possible, for the deployment of the Observer Mission so that it may commence its verification functions;

4. Calls upon the authorities directly concerned to extend their fullest cooperation to the Observer Mission in order to facilitate the accomplishment of its task, as requested by the United Nations;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.